

### Woodland Owners & EAB: What To Do?

Mike Kay, Maryland Forest Service

Adapted from Jonathan Kays Natural Resource Specialist University of Maryland Extension and Aaron Cook, MD Forest Service



### Is Your Woodland Important?



#### **EAB & Other Forest Threats**

- Past
  - Chestnut blight
  - Dutch elm disease
- Present
  - Gypsy moth
  - Southern pine beetle
  - Emerald ash borer
  - Asian longhorned beetle
  - Thousand cankers disease
  - Sudden oak death

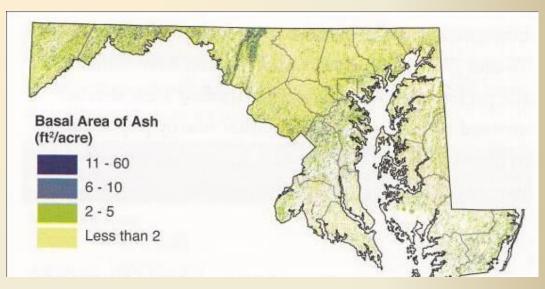


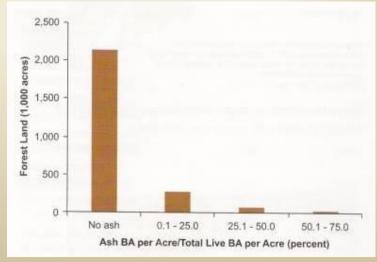


#### **How Much Ash Is There?**

- Present on 4% of woodlands - 81,000 acres.
- Represents less than 25% of total live trees.
- Most ash found in west half of county.
- Mostly green and white ash.

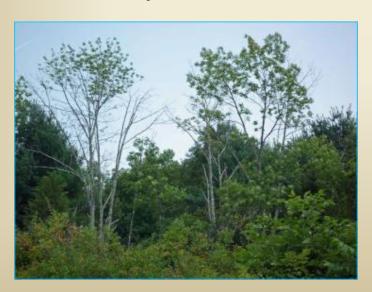






# How Do I Know There Is EAB On My Property?

- Thinning of the crown of ash trees
- Increased woodpecker activity
- D-shaped borer hole







### **Close Up Damage**









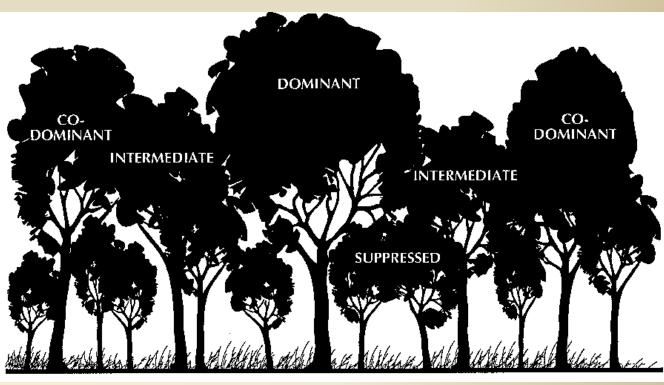
# What Can You Do To Remove Potential Impact?

- It will not go away. Assume it will kill all your ash trees, even if you are not in a quarantine zone.
- Reduce the number of ash trees on your property to minimize EAB impacts.
- EAB has been found on Eastern Shore now. All of Maryland is in quarantine area.
- Ash trees that may cause a hazard should be cut before they die.
- Seek advice of a professional forester for mgt strategies.



#### Inaction

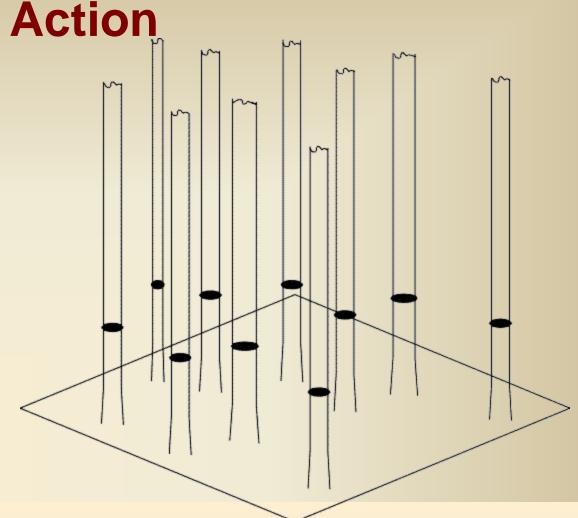
< 10% of BA



As ash trees die in the canopy other trees of other species will take their place. You can let nature take its course or be proactive and control the future species composition.



> 10% of BA

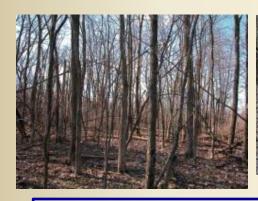


As the ash component and diameter class of those trees increases, the economic value also increases. Commercial harvests are feasible.

### Overall Management Concerns With Loss of Ash

- Reduce stand vulnerability by removing largest ash first (ash phloem sources).
- Do not eliminate all ash keep 5-10% of some trees in ash for diversity. In case some miracle occurs. (seed bank).
- Ash presalvage sales have been occurring since 2005.

### 10% (or less) Ash BA in Stand: Dominant Trees < 12" dbh





Stands does not contain adequate number, & distribution of desirable species to develop into an adequately stocked stand if all or a high proportion of the ash are removed or killed.

No action

a) Thin dead ash trees for firewood

Remove or deaden existing trees & allow the stand to regenerate naturally or plant seedlings or seed Forest Thinning - improve growth & species composition, not regeneration



#### > 10% Ash BA in Stand: Dominant Trees > 12" dbh



Stands in which the dominant trees are greater than 12 inch dbh

No action

Commercial harvest to reduce or eliminate ash while harvesting other species as appropriate

No commercial harvest and cut or deaden the ash in the stand

## Commercial Harvest Provides Income – thin and/ or regenerate

Will require some minimum level of volume (30,000 bd ft) and quality to be economically viable.







### Forestry Professionals Available to Help Woodland Owners.



- Service foresters DNR Forest Service (over 10 acres)
- Consulting foresters
- Industrial foresters

#### Find a Forester:

www.extension.umd.edu/woodland

Two directories for Consulting & Industrial Foresters:

- Maryland Consulting and Industrial Foresters
- Maryland Small-Acreage Professional Foresters Directory

### A Woodland Steward...

- Feels a sense of responsibility.
- Knows the opportunities.
- Is aware of the consequences of actions



